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MUS 424W.80: Music of the 20th Century to the Present

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Randall, James, "MUS 424W.80: Music of the 20th Century to the Present" (2009). *Syllabi*. 10574.
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Music 424W: Music of the 20th Century to the Present
Upper-Division Writing Course: 3Credits
Fall 2009

Instructor: James Randall
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Office Hrs: Wed 9:30-11:30, or by appt.

Pre-requisites:

Students must have completed both their upper-division recital program and piano proficiency degree requirements, or have the consent of the instructor to enroll in this course.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the development of musical styles, genres, forms and aesthetic movements important to Western art music of the 20th century to the present. A 3-credit course, it fulfills the upper-division writing requirement.

Student Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Knowledge: You'll have a better acquaintance with important and influential works of composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including a familiarity with musical styles, compositional techniques, and sources of creative inspiration.
- 2) Listening Skills: You'll develop active listening skills, including the ability to recognize the musical styles of particular composers and to identify musical elements that transmit meaning in a composition.
- 3) Writing Skills: You'll hone skills important to writing in the discipline of music. Each essay assignment explores a specific type of writing common in the field, including music criticism, program notes, and original research.

Required Texts

You have two required texts for this course: *20th-Century Music*, by Robert Morgan, and *Strunk's Source Readings in Music History: The Twentieth Century*, vol., 7, edited by Robert Morgan. Both are available at the campus bookstore, or you may choose to order them online through Amazon.com or another vendor. Additional assigned readings will be posted online in PDF format as part of the Blackboard course supplement. And, if you don't own it already, you might consider purchasing Richard Wingell's *Writing About Music: An Introductory Guide (4th Edition)*.

Listening Materials

Listening examples for the course will be available with a \$25 subscription to Naxos Music Library offered through our textbook publisher, W.W. Norton. All examples are available in streaming audio format, meaning that you can listen to them on your computer as if tuned in to a digital radio station. Unfortunately you will not be able to download or 'record' these selections, so you must be online in order to access the music. *For details about how to subscribe to this service, see the*

NAXOS MUSIC LIBRARY handout, which is posted in the Learning Units folder (Week 1: Getting Started) on Blackboard.

Required Computer Software

To access course materials through Blackboard and Naxos you will need the following software programs: Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media and Power Point. Many of you will already have this software installed on your computer. If not, and you experience difficulties opening up files posted on Blackboard, there are 'reader' versions of these programs available as free downloads online. See the following links:

Adobe Reader: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

MS Word, Power Point, and Windows Media: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads>

Evaluation:

Grades will be based upon the following:

Essay I (program note)	15%
Essay II (critical review)	15%
Midterm I	15%
Midterm II	15%
Paper III (research paper)	20%
Attendance and Participation in Discussion Group	20%

- Paper extensions will only be permitted with a valid excuse – illness, death in the family, etc.
- Students with special needs should consult with the instructor for accommodations.

Grading scale is as follows

A	93-100%	C	73-77%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	83-87%	D	63-67%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	78-79%	F	59% and below

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

SCHEDULE

Weekly reading and listening assignments, as well as other homework will be posted in the Weekly Assignments folder on Blackboard. The following schedule provides weekly topics of study, dates for exams, and due dates for your essays.

Week 1: Aug 31-Sept. 6

Illegal Harmonies: Why does 20th-century music sound so different?

Week 2: Sept. 7-13

Schoenberg and the Boys: Expressionism and the Atonal Revolution

Week 3: Sept. 14-20

Schoenberg and the Boys II: Music in 12 tones (more or less)

Week 4: Sept. 21-27

Back to their roots: Stravinsky, Bartok, and the influence of folk music

Week 5: Sept. 28-Oct. 4

The Italians get Futuristic and Everyone else gets Nationalistic

*TURN IN ESSAY 1

Week 6: Oct. 5-11

Neo-Classicism: Out of the Past, Into the Future

Week 7: Oct. 12-18

It's all Political: Music and Propaganda

*MIDTERM I EXAM

Week 8: Oct. 19-25

The United States: Experimentalism and Populism go hand in hand

Week 9: Oct. 26-Nov. 1

Other Nationalisms: Britain loves Britten; Art music goes to Latin America

*TURN IN ESSAY II

Week 10: Nov. 2-Nov. 8

Control Freaks: Integral Serialism

*RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS DUE

Week 11 Nov. 9-15

Leaving it up to Chance: Cage and Eastern Philosophy

Week 12 Nov. 16-22

Minimalism

*MIDTERM 2 EXAM

Week 13: Nov. 23-29 (Thanksgiving break)

The New Pluralism and Multiculturalism

*TURN IN RESEARCH PAPER ROUGH DRAFT

Week 14: Nov. 30-Dec. 6

Electronica (Not the club scene, but the art music)

Week 15: Dec. 7-13

The Gender Gap: Where are all the women composers?

Week 16: FINALS WEEK: FINAL PAPERS DUE DEC. 16 BY 5:00 PM